

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 1, 2016

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

Members present: Maripat Gatter, David LaGesse, Jeanne Most, Becky Patel, Eric Schneider, Mark Stapleton and Melanie Tamsky

Absent: Joanne Boulton, Jenaro Centeno, Cynthia Garnholz and Missy McCormick

Also Present: Patty DeForrest and Dan Krewson

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience

Affiliated Users Program:

Ms. DeForrest discussed the details of the Affiliated User Program with the Commission. (See attached document for additional information.) She explained that both the School District of Clayton (District) and the City of Clayton have Affiliated User group programs, but the programs are in some ways different. Patty explained that, when the Clayton Parks and Recreation Department was smaller there were many groups whom were using park facilities free of charge. Due to changes in insurance requirements as well the addition of staff that were paying attention to the heavy usage, it was determined that fees should be charged to offset the costs to the City. What needed to be determined is the rate each group would receive. In 2005 representatives from all user groups met for six months to develop a plan moving forward. Criteria and benchmarks were set to help determine rates. For example, user groups who enhance our facilities by their offerings and are great for the community receive discounted rates. The Clayton Parks and Recreation Department also does not have to run those programs. Each group has to go through the application process, which determines their discounted rate and category.

Many of these groups have used our facilities for a long time. Clayton Water Polo and Clayton Shaw Park Swimming have on-going programs which provide additional benefits to residents and the community. When this plan went into place swim groups were placed in the Gold Category. Webster Groves Hockey was not awarded the Gold Category, but the group was grateful for their discount. Ms. DeForrest also included a copy of the application groups complete for approval. Junior Greyhounds are the most recent group that was added, which was five years ago and continues to grow. .

The process is as follows: completion of a form requesting to be added to the program, application is assigned to a Recreation Supervisor and then the Director to approve or disapprove the request. If a group is denied access to the program, the group has the right to appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Being an affiliated user does not allow the group to designate who can or cannot rent space from the City.

The Commission asked Ms. DeForrest if revenue is generated from groups who receive discounts. Ms. DeForrest reported that the City generates \$40,000 in rental revenue from the three swim groups. The City covers their costs even with groups who receive a fifty percent discount. There are times when various groups will rent lanes at the Shaw Park Aquatic Center; these groups do not receive a discount. Ms. DeForrest mentioned that she asked her staff if they thought anything about the Affiliated User Group Program needed to be changed and staff reported that no changes were necessary. The Affiliated User Group plans works well and these groups saw its benefits after the plan was implemented.

A question was asked to whether or not we had any affiliated users who requested use of the fields. Patty explained that there is very limited availability for field usage. Fields are reserved for eight to ten hours a day which is more than is recommended; therefore we do not want to have additional rentals. Over the last ten years the fields have all been rebuilt.

Ice Rink Update:

Ms. DeForrest reviewed the very preliminary ice rink update from Jacobs with the Commission. The ice rink concept was revised in order to make sure that initial estimates were still in line with costs in 2018 dollars. Jacobs confirmed that they are still estimating the cost to be in the neighborhood of \$5,800,000 for construction but that an additional \$500,000 would need to be included for design, bidding and construction oversight. This will enable Patty to put a good estimate in the upcoming capital budget.

A rendering of the modifications was shown to the Commission. The building is not designed yet. Ms. DeForrest noted that she would like the building to have a Colonial appearance. It will be a one story building with a roof. Mr. Schneider said it will be great to have a one story building for hockey groups and party rentals. A layout of the rink was also distributed, and the legend showed what the building included. It would be ideal if there was portable glass around the rink for hockey events. The restaurant was eliminated although a nice concession area is included. Ms. DeForrest made it clear that there is a lot of work to do before the ice rink project would be implemented. There is a year of design work and public meetings as well.

Director's Report

Ms. DeForrest reviewed the Dog Park Rendering with the Commission that has been submitted by MSD. (See attached rendering). MSD is handling this project, including its cost, after the installation of the underground tunnel. MSD has worked with the city to move the Dog Park back further on the site as well as increase the size. The park would have three sections: small dog, large dog and an agility area. Grass would be in the middle and the granite fines in two of the areas. There would be a bio-retention area for water to drain properly. The road would be shortened and parking spots would be added. The City asked MSD to consider adding a sidewalk along the street because currently there is only a road. Part of the agreement will be to pay the City to put in new trees. MSD included the Dog Park idea in their bid document. The construction bid will go out in the next couple of months and construction will take place in the coming years; it is anticipated that the construction at Anderson Park will last about one year.

The City received the \$382,000 Playground Grant for Taylor Park. Ms. DeForrest noted that the actual cost of the project will be \$422,000 which includes enhancements and new irrigation in the whole park. The community involvement in the planning process was very helpful. The City will submit a grant application for DeMun Park when it is time to complete that project. Some of the funding might also be provided by the City.

A "*We love Our Member's*" initiative is taking place throughout the Center in February. On Friday, February 5th, there will be free fitness and small group personal training classes. Also, fun things for our members will take place throughout the month of February. Members have the opportunity to bring a friend for free on February 26 and there will be a grand re-opening of the Youth Activity Center. Cupid's Ball is next Monday, February 8 at the Ritz Carlton.

Old Business / New Business:

There was no old or new business to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski